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ALKALI PLANT REPORTS INCREASED SODA PRODUCTION

A general rehabilitation program was begun at the Yung-li Alkali Plant in T'an-ku, in March. Production figures in September reveal a general improvement at the plant. The production of pure alkalies is 170-180 tons daily.

YUNG-LI PLANS IMPROVEMENT -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 13 Aug 50

The Yung-li Alkali Plant at T'an-ku opened a program in March to repair and augment its equipment. This program is now 20 percent completed. The whole plan calls for the following additions: one ammonia absorption tower, one cooling tower, one washer, seven deep wells, and one coke dump (area, 100 mou). The boiler room and storage room of the calcining shop have been completely rehabilitated. Yung-li plans to add to its facilities vacuum machinery, cold-air blowers, pressure drums [probably vacuum rotary filters], filtration recovery machinery, and a coal stoker for the No 8 boiler. After the addition of the recovering equipment, the water content of the alkali [or soda] may be brought from 25 percent down to 15 percent. The entire rehabilitation program is to be completed in 6 months. [Terminology appears to refer to the Solvay process for sodium carbonate.]

YUNG-LI PRODUCTION GAINS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 15 Sep 50

Tientsin, 13 September (Hsin-hua) -- Production of pure alkalies at the T'an-ku Alkali Plant of the privately operated Yung-li Chemical Corporation has now reached the level attained prior to the Sino-Japanese War, with a daily output of 170-180 tons. The daily production of soda [presumably sodium carbonate] has risen from the former figure of 7-8 tons to 14-15 tons, which is still insufficient to meet the demand, following the government ban on soda import. The government recently granted special loans of 1.6 billion yuan to support the expansion and rehabilitation of the soda plant. Following the rise in production, the drop in costs, and the development of a fluid market for alkalies, Yung-li has begun to see signs of improvement and to balance its ledgers.

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In February and March, when the plant was in such dire straits, the workers took salary cuts, pressed for cooperation with management, and otherwise strove to relieve the situation. A general investigation of work stoppage at the plant in July took only 6 hours but netted a saving of 1,000 man-hours. Production competitions were instituted on 1 September.

One problem remaining in the Yung-li picture is the lack of a comprehensive system of incentives. The workers' efforts to reach higher production have been given no encouragement from the management during this past year. If this defect persists, it will be reflected in future production.

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